

## **Immunization Registry Progress in Oklahoma**

### **Immunization Coverage in Oklahoma**

According to National Immunization Survey (NIS) data for July 1998 to June 1999, the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were up-to-date with 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, 3 doses of poliomyelitis, and 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella vaccine was 79%. This coverage rate is one percentage point below the national average (80%).

### **Facts about Oklahoma State Immunization Information System (OSIIS)**

- OSIIS collects and manages immunization data for the entire state of Oklahoma.
- The targeted age group for OSIIS is all ages.
- Currently, entities linking with the registry include:
  - Vital Records Department;
  - Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program;
  - Community/Migrant Health Centers.
- As of June 21, 1999:
  - 74% of children less than 6 years old were enrolled in the registry; and
  - 32% of all providers were enrolled in the registry.

### **Other unique qualities about OSIIS**

Oklahoma's 2 year old coverage levels have improved during the past year from 72% to 78%, raising our state ranking from 48<sup>th</sup> to being tied for 31<sup>st</sup>. Much of this improvement is believed to be associated with the registry. Registry activity includes efforts to send reminder cards to parents whose children are overdue for immunizations as well as Hallmark Greeting Cards containing Governor and Mrs. Keating's message to new parents.

### **Other registry plans, accomplishments, and successes**

- OSIIS will be exploring partnerships with our private sector HMOs this fall.
- Work also is being done to integrate the Indian Health Service's database with the registry.
- Registry access for public school systems is being sought to ease school burden in checking immunization levels.

### **Some challenges and barriers affecting registry progress**

Some limitations in recruitment of providers exist, but none are considered major barriers that cannot be overcome in time.

- Some providers utilize billing systems and do not wish to have their staff double-enter immunizations into two separate systems.
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- **Work is needed on ways to integrate billing and immunization tracking systems together or exchange data to avoid duplication of effort.**
- **There are some providers who cannot participate in the registry because their offices are not computerized.**
- **Costs associated with software license purchases limits registry growth.**
- **Development of a web-based registry is being explored as a way to reduce costs and improve access potential.**

### **Current political or legislative factors affecting registry activity**

Participation in the Oklahoma immunization registry is not mandated. Although some states have enacted laws requiring mandatory participation for providers, we are not encouraging such a law at this time for Oklahoma. Participation in OSIIS is currently supported by the Oklahoma State Medical Association and other health partners.

### **Current registry funding**

OSIIS currently is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (All Kids Count). Additional state funding would benefit the registry program.

### **Helpful immunization and immunization registry contacts in Oklahoma:**

Registry Contact Person

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### **Suggestions for Mrs. Keating's involvement and support:**

- To speak at a November 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon sponsored by the Oklahoma County Immunization Coalition. The Coalition's purpose is to recruit new members and to raise awareness of immunization issues. Every vaccine provider in Oklahoma County will be invited. Expected attendance is approximately 250-300.
- Mrs. Keating has been an excellent supporter of OSIIS in the past, and the program has benefitted greatly from her assistance. In addition to the Hallmark initiative, Mrs. Keating has spoken at immunization events and hosted a luncheon recognizing outstanding achievement for immunization services by county health departments. OSIIS looks forward to her continued support of the immunization efforts in Oklahoma.